

Listening

1 1.23 Listen and match speakers 1–4 to options

A–E. There is one option that you do not need.

Which speaker wants to change a body part because of:

- A an acquired disability? D a nasty scar?
- B a slight imperfection? E a bad habit?
- C the practical problems it causes?

READING

4 Complete the article To clone or not to clone a mammoth? with sentences A–H.

There are two sentences that you do not need.

- A The difficulty of obtaining healthy cells from the preserved carcasses is sure to hold up the process.
- B The technique requires scores of healthy mammoth cells which must have survived with their DNA intact.
- C Now some scientists are talking openly about bringing them back to life.
- D You stand in awe of this majestic creature, which is pacing round and round its cage.
- E Researchers believe that she met her end when she fell into water or got trapped in a swamp and could not free herself.
- F Elephants and mammoths each have about 4 billion DNA bases in their genes.
- G The first of these concerns the welfare of the cloned animal.
- H One small population was recently found to have survived to around 4,000 years ago on the Russian island of Wrangel.

To clone or not to clone a mammoth?

Imagine your next visit to the zoo. You are walking past the elephant enclosure when suddenly, you come across a new exhibit: a large, woolly mammoth.

¹ ‘Impossible!’ I hear you cry, but not all of ⁵ today’s scientists would agree with you.

Mammoths ranged from the British Isles to eastern Asia and northern America until they disappeared around 10,000 years ago. ² Hunting by ¹⁰ cavemen or climate change, or a combination of both, are generally blamed for their demise.

Recently, however, the body of what has been called ‘the best preserved mammoth in the history of palaeontology’ was found in the Siberian permafrost. ¹⁵ Each year, more and more frozen animals are being revealed in the area because global warming is causing the ground to melt. This particular mammoth, whom scientists have named Yuka, was a female who was between six and eleven years old when she died. ³ Yuka’s body remained in such good ²⁰ condition because she stayed frozen for such a long, unbroken period of time – 39,000 years, to be exact. But the most exciting thing about the discovery is the fact that some of her blood has been found. Experts believe that the blood may contain cells that can be ²⁵ used to bring the woolly mammoth back from the dead. Samples have already been sent to a laboratory in South Korea with that in mind.

However, cloning expert Sir Ian Wilmut, the stem-cell scientist whose team unveiled Dolly the sheep as the ³⁰ first cloned mammal in 1996, regards the idea as ‘wildly optimistic’. Apparently, there are formidable obstacles standing in the way of cloning the beasts.

⁴ In practice, the cells degenerate quickly once the snow and ice starts to melt, which is when ³⁵ most remains are found. New cloning procedures are currently being developed but, according to Sir Ian, it could be another fifty years before these techniques are perfected.

Apart from the technical difficulties surrounding the issue of resurrecting the mammoth, there are also a number of ethical questions involved.⁵

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Mammoths, like elephants, are highly social, intelligent animals, and at some point they would need friends and neighbours to interact with. Due to the fact that scientists will probably only be able to create one or two examples, the mammoths would be destined to a life of solitary confinement in a zoo or a research facility. The animal is hardly likely to thrive in these conditions. Another problem is the question of expense. The World Wide Fund for Nature has suggested that 10,000 species a year are becoming extinct. Many scientists believe that resources should be used for conserving existing animals rather than trying to revive just one special-interest species.

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In short, despite the hopes that the discovery of Yuka has aroused in the field of palaeontology, it seems unlikely that a mammoth will be cloned in the near future.⁶ However, in the words of Sir Ian Wilmut, 'the world is full of surprises.'

Grammar and vocabulary**6 Choose the correct answers.**

In the past, it was only ¹ who had access to cosmetic surgery, but now it's popular with people from ² walks of life. Nowhere is this treatment catching on faster than in South Korea, where one in five women ³ under the surgeon's knife at least once in their lives. Today, cosmetic surgery is so popular that celebrities and beauty queens ⁴ openly discuss their treatment. Very few women ⁵ of the treatment if they can afford it, and it isn't uncommon for Korean high school girls to consult a surgeon. In some cases, it's the parents who encourage their children ⁶ surgery, because they don't want their child ⁷ the 'ugly one' in class. Most girls do not regret ⁸ their parents' advice. Of course, all plastic surgery comes with ⁹ , including facial numbness or even paralysis. But to ¹⁰ women, that is the price they have to pay to look beautiful.

- 1** a rich b the rich c a rich
d a rich people
- 2** a too much b a lot c some
d almost all
- 3** a goes b are going c has gone d went
- 4** a are used to b will c would d get used to
- 5** a pick out b spread out c clear out
d opt out
- 6** a having b to have c have
d to having
- 7** a to be b be c is d was
- 8** a take b to take c taking d took
- 9** a risks b a risks c the risks d risk
- 10** a much b a lot c many d almost